

some champions in the 19th Congressional District of Texas. I proudly congratulate the Sudan Nettes girls basketball team of Sudan High School in Sudan, Texas, for winning the Class 1A, Division I State championship in 2009.

The Nettes finished the 2008–2009 season with 35 wins and only five losses. The championship squad includes seniors Whitney Robertson, Skylar Sowder, Amy Tiller, and Brittany Williams; juniors Lacey Logan and CeCe Williams; sophomores Emylee Gonzales, Desiree King, Chelsea Locke, and Mariah Steinbock; and freshmen Baylee Black and Danielle Logan. Led by head coach Jason Cooper, the coaching staff includes assistant coaches Lisa Logan and Mark Scisson.

Following a frustrating loss in this last year's State finals, the Nettes demonstrated their hard work and determination during the off-season. In this year's final, their focus on teamwork paid off in a 71–38 victory over the Roscoe Plowgirls, the third largest margin of victory in Class 1A history. With this win, Sudan earns its fourth State title and its first since 1994.

I applaud the Nettes' hard work and tradition of success. With great support from the community, the team proved itself as the best basketball team in Class 1A. The Sudan Nettes continue to exemplify the principles of competitive spirit and success on and off the court.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I proudly congratulate the Muleshoe Mules high school football team for defeating Kirbyville on the way to winning the Class 2A, Division I State football championship in 2008.

Establishing a tradition of success, the Mules have made their State playoffs 9 out of the last 10 years under Head Coach David Woods. In 2008, the Mules demonstrated their talent and determination by ending the football season with a perfect 15–0 record. This is the first State football championship for Muleshoe.

Quarterback Wes Wood passed for 4,532 yards for this season, with 230 of those yards in this year's championship game.

In another exceptional championship performance, Lane Wood ran for 160 yards and two touchdowns. The Mules scored four consecutive touchdowns in the second half to achieve a final score of 48–26.

I applaud the Mules' hard work and resilience through the 2008–2009 season. With great support from the community, the team proved itself as the best 2A football team in the State of Texas and an inspiration to all of us. The Muleshoe Mules continue to exemplify the principles of competitive spirit and success on and off the field.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING DEWEY SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dewey Smith, a young man who tragically lost his life on Tuesday, May 5, this past Tuesday, in the course of his duties at the Aquarius Undersea Research Station. He will be greatly missed by his friends, his family, and his colleagues.

Dewey's life was tied to the sea from his childhood growing up on the Gulf Coast in Panama City, Florida. As a young man, he served his country as a United States Navy hospital corpsman. For 5 years, he cared for the health and well-being of his fellow sailors. After leaving the Navy and attending college, he found himself at home back in the water, training at Florida State University's underwater crime scene investigation program focusing on scientific and surface supply diving. Eventually, his path led him to NOAA's Undersea Research Center, Aquarius.

Aquarius combined the elements of Dewey's passion for science and the sea. Located 3½ miles off the coast of Key Largo, Florida, the underwater laboratory is dedicated to scientific research and training missions. It is the only permanent underwater laboratory in the world, and its facilities are used in partnership with NASA, the Navy, and countless scientists around the world to train astronauts, divers, and develop new technology. Since it began operation in 1993 at its current location, Aquarius and its team have safely conducted more than 90 missions with no significant prior accidents.

The contribution to ocean science by Dewey Smith and his fellow aquanauts is immeasurable. The Aquarius Reef Base supports a long-term coral reef monitoring platform, an ocean observation platform, and surface-based research.

Since its inception, the team at Aquarius has employed a coral reef and fish monitoring assessment program to track the devastating impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems.

Aquanauts such as Dewey Smith have also successfully reached out to the world beyond the scientific community, successfully educating school children, environmental activists, and government agencies on the changes occurring in the world's oceans. Employing state-of-the-art communication technology, the aquanauts correspond with students and the public while underwater on long-term missions. Dewey's response to school children's questions reveal not only his expertise and eloquence, but his sincere desire to share that knowledge gained at Aquarius in the hopes of saving the marine ecosystem he worked with.

The work done at Aquarius by brave aquanauts such as Dewey Smith improves the lives of many Americans, from astronauts, whose health and safety are ensured through technology

developed underwater, to fishermen, whose livelihoods depend on understanding the effects of climate change on the world's marine ecosystems.

Mr. Speaker, this Monday, quite rightfully, our Nation will gaze in wonder and admiration at the astronauts who will lift off yet again in the space shuttle. As courageous and important as the work those astronauts do, I believe that the work done by the aquanauts at Aquarius is no less courageous and no less essential to our understanding of our world and the well-being of civilization.

Dewey Smith, along with the other Aquarius aquanauts, risked and committed his life daily not only for his love of the sea but for the cause of research, education, and conservation, which benefits us all.

In a few short minutes on Tuesday afternoon, a dedicated aquanaut was suddenly lost in the course of an otherwise standard mission. Let us not risk losing the work, however, that he was so passionate about. I stand today not only to mourn the death of a beloved friend, son, brother, and colleague, but to urge that this mission continue.

Looking forward, I hope that Dewey's life will continue to inspire the important work of preserving the world's oceans. I offer my sincere condolence to Dewey Smith's family, to the entire Aquarius team, and ask that this House honor him as a man who died serving his country in pursuit of scientific progress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House observe a moment of silence in honor of this courageous government employee and researcher.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING JOHN A. GARRETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate, pay tribute, and honor a great American on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

John A. Garrett turns 100 years old this Sunday, May 10th. The Governor of Alabama has declared this Sunday John A. Garrett Day in the State, and the mayor of Montgomery has done the same in our State's capital city.

I want to join in sharing my best wishes with those loved ones and friends who will be sharing in this, celebrating the milestone on Sunday in Snowdown, Alabama.

John A. Garrett, born on May 10, 1909, was the fourth from the oldest of 10 children. He is the last surviving sibling in his family.